

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /056 W

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P 141454Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1797

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON CASE - WRAP-UP

1. TO ENSURE ONGOING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GODR AND TO TIE UP LOOSE ENDS, I TOOK FOLLOWING TWO STEPS: (A) INVITED ON OCTOBER 11 TO A NOONTIME CUP OF CHAMPAGNE CELEBRATION DOMINICAN OFFICIALS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN KIDNAPPING EPISODE, MONSEÑOR POLANCO AND HIS ASSOCIATE, PITTALUGA, MY SPANISH AND VENEZUELAN COLLEAGUES TOGETHER WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE EX-HOSTAGES (EXCEPT FOR VENEZUELAN VICE CONSUL WHO IS IN HOSPITAL FOR OBSERVATION); AND (B) OBTAINED ON OCT 13 AN AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER, ACCOMPANIED BY MY COLLEAGUES AND OUR RESPECTIVE RECOVERED NATIONALS TO PERMIT ALL OF US TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO HIM.

2. AS MAY BE IMAGINED, THE OCT. 11 AFFAIR WAS A SCENE OF HAPPINESS AND HILARITY WITH INNUMERABLE ANECDOTES EXCHANGED (WHICH ARE BEST RELATED IN A LETTER).

3. THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED US AFTER MASS AND WAS EXTRAORDINARILY GRACIOUS AND GOOD-HUMORED. HIS AFFECTION FOR "SEÑORITA BABARA" WAS MANIFEST. HE WAS LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE OF THE ACTIVITY AND COOPERATION OF THE THREE CHIEFS OF MISSION.

4. AFTER THE OTHERS WITHDREW, I STAYED ON A MOMENT TO DELIVER TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER THE VERY HELPFUL LETTER
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FROM PRESIDENT FORD. BALAGUER WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE AND

SAID THAT HE WOULD REPLY THROUGH HIS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.
HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY (EMBARRASSINGLY
SO) AND EMOTIONAL (FOR HIM) EXPRESSION OF SATISFACTION AND
APPRECIATION FOR MY ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE ORDEAL.

5. COMMENT: IN SUM, THE HOSTAGES WERE FREED UNHARMED AND
WITHOUT VIOLENCE; THE TERRORISTS ACHIEVED NOTHING BUT
OPPORBRIUM FOR THE DEED AND THE SAVING OF THEIR OWN SKINS; AND
OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GODR AND MOST ESPECIALLY WITH
PRESIDENT BALAGUER, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT, ARE BETTER
THAN EVER.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO04276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740292-0233
From: SANTO DOMINGO
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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